

Amendment B  
USSN 10/655,336  
May 4, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 4, 2005  
Page 4

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action mailed February 4, 2005 has been carefully considered. Claims 22, 23 and 24 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's formal objections thereto. Claims 25-27 have been cancelled per this amendment, without prejudice. No new matter has been added to the subject application as a result of the changes made thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 21-27 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Cyras, et al. The Examiner points to Cyras as disclosing "an adapter to read an IC card or "Smart Card" comprising: a housing that receives a Smart Card and has a pinout arrangement adapted to interface with a PCMCIA socket (fig 3) and a circuit adapted to control selected signal lines of the pinout arrangement to permit a Smart Card controller to read and operate the Smart Card through the PCMCIA socket (fig. 1, part 18 & col. 6, lines 5-18)". Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's characterization of Cyras et al. is incorrect, as set forth below.

As an initial matter, Cyras et al. does not disclose or suggest an adapter. Instead, Cyras is directed to a system for reading PCMCIA cards. The Examiner points to figure 3 of Cyras et al. as disclosing an adapter. However, figure 3 is simply another embodiment of an IC card, which in Cyras et al. is a PCMCIA card. Likewise, figure 2 discloses a different embodiment of an IC card. Neither of these are an adapter as required by Applicants' invention of independent claim 21.

Moreover, Cyras et al. is completely silent regarding operation of Smart Cards, and is only directed to the operation of conventional PCMCIA cards. Therefore, since Cyras et al. is

Amendment B  
USSN 10/655,336  
May 4, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 4, 2005  
Page 5

completely silent on the operability of Smart Cards, Cyras et al. could not disclose or suggest the operation of a Smart Card using an adapter that can interface in a PCMCIA socket.

In contrast to Cyras et al., Applicants' invention of independent claim 21 requires "*an adapter* to read and operate *Smart Cards*, said *adapter* comprising: a housing adapted to receive a Smart Card and having a pinout arrangement adapted to interface with a PCMCIA socket; and a circuit adapted to control selected signal lines of said pinout arrangement to permit a *Smart Card controller* to read and operate said Smart Card through said PCMCIA socket." Claim 22 depends directly from Applicants' invention of independent claim 21, and thus, must be read as incorporating the limitations of claim 21, as amended. (35 USC §112, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph).

Thus, Cyras et al. completely fails to disclose or suggest:

- (1). An adapter to read and operate Smart Cards,
- (2). A housing adapted to receive a Smart Card and having a pinout arrangement adapted to interface with a PCMCIA socket, and
- (3). a circuit adapted to control selected signal lines of the pinout arrangement to permit a Smart Card controller to read and operate the Smart Card through the PCMCIA socket.

Accordingly, since none of these claimed limitations are present in Cyras et al., it is respectfully submitted that Cyras et al. could not anticipate Applicants' invention of independent claim 21. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 21 and 22 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Cyras et al. is in error, and should be withdrawn.

Similarly, the Examiner's reliance on Cyras et al. to anticipate Applicants' invention of independent claim 23 seems equally misplaced. Suffice to note, and as set forth above, nowhere

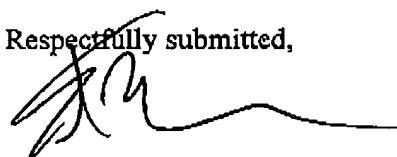
Amendment B  
USSN 10/655,336  
May 4, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of February 4, 2005  
Page 6

does Cyras et al. disclose or suggest an adapter to provide operability of a Smart Card in a PCMCIA Type II/III socket. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of Claim 23 and all claims dependent thereon as being anticipated by Cyras et al. is in error, and should be withdrawn.

Having dealt with all of the objections raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Thus, early allowance is earnestly solicited.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560. In the event any additional fees are payable, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,



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